

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spool comprising ~~filled with~~ two or more elongated steel elements wound in parallel and in several windings upon said spool, wherein several windings wound next to each other build a layer, wherein said two or more elongated steel elements alternate with each other in each layer, wherein the distance between two neighboring elongated steel elements, as measured along a line parallel to the axis of the spool, is not more than 10 mm along 90% of the length of each elongated steel element.
2. (Original) A spool according to claim 1 wherein said distance is smaller than 5 mm.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) A spool according to claim 1 wherein said steel elements are steel wires.
5. (Previously Presented) A spool according to claim 1 wherein said steel elements are steel cords.
6. (Original) A spool according to claim 5 wherein one of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a first twist direction, and wherein another of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a second twist direction, said second twist direction being opposite to said first twist direction.
7. (Previously Presented) A method of minimizing sags when unwinding multiple elongated steel elements from one single spool, said method comprising the following steps :
 - a) providing a spool;
 - b) winding multiple elongated steel elements in parallel and in several windings upon said spool so that the distance between two neighboring elongated steel elements, as measured along a line parallel to the axis of the spool, is not more than 10 mm along 90% of the length of each elongated steel element, wherein sagging of the steel elements is minimized.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7 wherein said method further comprises the following step :

- guiding the multiple elongated steel elements on a common pulley upstream of the spool.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said method further comprises the following step :

- keeping the multiple elongated steel elements separate from each other upstream of said common pulley.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said common pulley has a flat groove.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10 wherein said flat groove has a width being greater than the sum of the diameters of the multiple elongated steel elements.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein said steel elements are steel cords;

- wherein one of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a first twist direction, and wherein another of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a second twist direction, said second twist direction being opposite to said first twist direction.

13. (Previously Presented) A spool according to claim 1, wherein said distance is smaller than 8 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) A spool according to claim 1, wherein the steel elements are wound on the spool so that a difference in tension between the steel elements is minimized.

15. (Previously Presented) A spool according to claim 1, wherein the steel elements are wound on the spool so that sagging of the steel elements is minimized when the steel elements are unwound from the spool.

16. (New) A spool according to claim 1, comprising three or more elongated steel elements wound in parallel upon said spool, wherein said three or more elongated steel elements form a

winding, wherein one or more windings wound next to each other build a layer, wherein said windings alternate said three or more elongated steel elements with each other in each layer.

17. (New) A spool according to claim 1, wherein the spool comprises flanges arranged on ends of the spool.